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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Wisdom

OR

Mind, Will, and Understanding

The Macro Plays. No. 2

Supposed date of MS., 1460
Reproduced in Facsimile, 1907

Wisdom

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Wisdom

OR

Wind, Will, and Understanding

The Macro Plays. No. 2

Supposed date of MS., 1460

Reproduced in Facsimile, 1907

Wisdom

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

Wisdom

OR

Mind, Will, and Understanding

The Macro Plays. No. 2

Issued for Subscribers by

T. C. & E. C. JACK, 16 HENRIETTA STREET

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Wisdom

OR

Mind, Will, and Understanding

The Macro Plays. No. 2

This play, hitherto known to scholars (for no special reason) as "Mind, Will, and Understanding," was happily re-christened by Dr. Furnivall when reprinting the piece for The Early English Text Society. I have followed Dr. Furnivall's lead, especially because it was at his suggestion (very kindly acceded to by Mr. John Henry Gurney of Keswick Hall, near Norwich, the owner of the original MS.) that this ancient morality (together with "Mankind," "The Castle of Perseverance," and "Respublica") has been included in The Tudor Facsimile Texts.

Particulars of Cox Macro, the former owner, from whom these plays take their name, are given, and sources of information are indicated in the Introduction to "Mankind," the first of the series of Macro facsimiles; the details need not be repeated in this place.

The manuscript of "Wisdom" consists of twenty-four leaves of quarto paper, and is made up of two gatherings of twelve leaves each. The manuscript is perfect; at the end is the same inscription of ownership as at the end of "Mankind."

Dr. Furnivall's revised title was thus set out:—

A Morality of Wisdom

Who is Christ?

How Lucifer tempts the Mind, Will, and Understanding of Man to Sin,

and it thus fully and lucidly summarises the dramatic motif

of the play. For the rest, "Wisdom" is excellently edited, as far as subject-matter is concerned, by Dr. Furnivall and Mr. A. W. Pollard in The Early English Text Society's reprint (Extra Series XCI.).

Turning to this facsimile reprint, it will be seen that in the Macro original the margins of the manuscript are sometimes cut away or that the script is occasionally erased. Especially is this the case on leaves 98, 102 *(recto and verso)*, 105, 106, *&c. It so happens, however, that "Wisdom" exists, as far as the first four lines of leaf* 113 *verso, or rather more than half the play, in a Digby manuscript at the Bodleian Library. This furnished Dr. Furnivall with many "supplies" and variorum (generally improved) readings when he was editing the piece for The Early English Text Society in* 1904. *On examination, however, it is evident that the original manuscript has in the interval become less distinct in places, inasmuch as words and letters which were then (I assume) legible are now either blurred or are altogether obliterated. Students must, therefore, on no account neglect the textual notes supplied by Dr. Furnivall's version when dealing critically with this facsimile of the original Macro MS., which as far as craftsmanship and care permit is a faithful reproduction of the original in its present state.*

One other point calling for mention is less important. The "scribblings" on leaf 98 *(verso)*, 99 *(foot of page)*, 100 *(ditto)*, 101 *(ditto)*, 103, 104, 105, 106—*indeed throughout—have been retained on the principle of "showing the original exactly as it exists to-day." The most notable example is probably that on* 121 *(verso) which faced, in the original Seventeenth Century binding, the first leaf* (122) *of "Mankind," but with which it has apparently nothing to do.*

J. S. FARMER.

Wisdom

OR

Mind, Will, and Understanding

The Players in the order of their entry.

WISDOM OF CHRIST.
ANIMA, OR THE SOUL.
ANIMA'S FIVE WITS, AS FIVE VIRGINS.

The Three Powers of every Christian Soul:—

MIND. WILL. UNDERSTANDING.

LUCIFER. A SHREWD BOY.

MIND'S *Six Retainers:—*

INDIGNATION. HASTINESS.
STURDINESS. WRETCH.
MALICE. DISCORD.
And MAINTENANCE.

UNDERSTANDING'S *Six False Jurors:—*

WRONG. FALSEHOOD.
SLEIGHT. RAVINE.
DOUBLENESS. DECEIT.
And PERJURY.

WIT'S *Six Women:—*

THREE DISGUISED AS GALLANTS, AND THREE AS MATRONS.

MINSTRELS, TRAMPS, A BAGPIPE, A HORNPIPE, SIX SMALL BOYS IN THE LIKENESS OF DEVILS.

[illegible] wyth browes [illegible]
ymperyall crown [illegible] sett wyth precyus stonys and perlys in hys leyfte honde a balle of golde wyth a cros theruppon and in
hys ryght honde a regall schepter thus seyenge . Wysdom

Yff ye wyll wete the propyrte
Ande the resun of my name imperyall
I am clepyde of hem that in erthe be
Euerlastynge wysdom to my nobley egall
Wyche name acordyt best in especyall
And most to me ys convenyent
All thow eche persone of the trinyte be wysdam eternall
And all thre on euerlastynge wysdome togedyr present
Neuerthelesse for as moche as wysdom ys propyrly
Applyede to the sune by resune
And also yt fallyt to hym specyally
By cause of hys hye generacion
Therfor the belowyde sone hath this sygnyficacion
Custumaly wysdom now gode now man
Spowse of the chyrche and wery patrone
Wyffe of eche chose sowle thus wysdam begane

Here entrethe anima as a mayde in a wyght clothe of golde gysely
purfyled wyth menyver a mantyll of blake therwppeon a cheueler
lyke to wysdom wyth a ryche chappetelot lasyde behynde hangynge
wyth two knottes of golde and syde tasselys knelynge down to wysdom thus

Hanc amavi et exquisivi
ffro my youthe thys haue I sowte
To haue to my spowse most specyally
For a louer of yowr schappe am I wrowte
Aboue all hele & bewty yt euer was sowght
I haue louyd wysdom as for my lyght
ffor all goodnes wt hym ys broughte
In wysdom I was made all bewty bryghte
Off yowr name ye hye felycyte
No creature knowyt full exposycyon

Sapiencia specialior est sole
I am foundon lyghte wt owt comparyson
Off sterrys aboue all ye dysposycyon
fforsothe of lyght ye very bryghtnes
Merowre of ye dyvyne domynacyon
And ye image of hys goodnes
Wysdom ys better yan all worldly precyosnes
And all yt may dysyryd be
Ys not in comparyschon to my lyknes
The lengthe of ye yerys in my ryght syde be
And in my lefte syde ryches joy & prosperyte
Lo yis ys ye worthynes of my name

A souereyn wysdom yff yowr benygnyte
Wolde speke of loue yt wer a game

Off my love to speke yt ys myrabile
This hole now sowle wt joyfull mynde
How lovely I am here amyable
To be ravysshed & blyssyd of man kynde
To all clene sowlys I am full hende
And ever present wer yt they be
I love my lovers wt owtyn ende
That ther love have stedfast in me
The prerogatyff of my love ys so grett
yt who tastyt ther of ye lest drope sure
All lustis & lykynges worldly xall lett
They xall seme to hym fylthe and ordure
They yt of ye hevy burthen of synne have cure
My love dyschargethe & puryfythe clene
It [illegible] strengthethe ye mynde ye sowll makyt pure
And yevyt wysdom to hem yt perfyte bene
Wo takyt me to spowse may verily wene
yff a bove all thynges ye love me specially
That rest & tranquyllyte he xall sene
And dey mookenes of joy spetuall
The hye worthynes of my love
Angell ner man can tell pleynly
yt may be felt from experyence a bove
But not spoke ne tolde as yt ys verily
The godly love no creature can specyfye

þt longe hyr[illegible] to ow so tendyrly
That hys syght from them non can remeve — Ani

O worthy spowse and souereyn fayre fader
O swete amyke owr ioy owr blys
To yowr love who dothe repeyer
All felycyte yn þt creatur ys
Wat may I yeve yow ageyn for þis — [illegible]
O creator lover of yowr creatur
Thowgh be owr frelte we do amys
Yowr grett mercy euer sparyth reddur
A souereyn wysdom souereyn socour
Wat may I yeve to yowr most plesaunce — Wysdom

ffili prebe m[ihi] cor tuu[m]
I aske not ellys of all þi substance
Thy clene hert þi meke obeysaunce
Yeve me þt & I am contente — Ani

A souereyn ioy my hertys affyaunce
The fervowre of my love to yow I present
That mekyt my herte yowr love so fervent
Teche me þe scolys of yowr dyvynyte — Wysdom

Dysyer not to sauer in cunnynge to excellent
But drede & conforme yowr wyll to me
ffor yt ys þe heelfull dyscyplyne þt in wysdam may be
The drede of god þt ys begynnynge
The wedys of synne yt makyt to flee
And swete vertuus herbys in þe sowll sprynge — Ani

O endles wysdom how may I haue knowynge
Off yt godhede incomprehensyble — wysdom

By knowynge of yowr sylff ye may haue felynge
What gode you in yowr sowle sensybles
the more knowynge of yowr selff passybles
ye more verely ye xall god knowe — Disc

O souereyn auctour most credyble
yowr lessun I attende as I owe
& yt represent here ye sowll of man
what ys a sowll wyche ye declare — wysdom

yt ys ye ymage of godde yt all be gan
And not only ymage but the lyknes ye se
Off all creaturys ye fayrest ye way
vn to ye tyme of adammys offence — Disc

Lorde sythe we thy sowlys yt nowe wer ther
Neyther of ye fyrst man bye we ye vyolence — wysdom

ffor euery creature yt hath ben or xall
was in natur of ye fyrst man adame
Off hym takynge ye fylthe of synne oryginall
ffor of hym all creaturys cam
than by hym of reson ye haue blame
and be made ye bondys of helle
Now ye be bore fyrst of yowr dame
ye may in no wyse in heuyn dwelle

Ffor ye be dysvygurryde be yowr synne
Ande dampnyde to derknes from godys syghte

Anima
How dothe grace yan agayn be gynne
Wat reformythe ye sowll to hys fyrste lyght

Wysdom
Wysdam yt was gode & man ryght
Made a full sethe to ye fadyr of hewyn
By ye dredfull dethe to hym was dyght
Off wyche dethe sprange ye sacramentys sevyn
Wyche sacramentys all synne wasche a wey
Ffyrst baptem clensythe synne orygynall
And reformyt ye sowll in feythe verray
To ye gloryus lyknes of gode eternall
Ande makyt yt as fayer and as celestyall
As yt neuer dyffowlyde had be
Ande ys crystys own specyall
Hys restynge place hys plesant see

Anima
In a sowle watt thyngys be
By wyche he hathe hys very knowynge

Wysdom
Tweyn partyes ye on sensualyte
Wyche ys clepyde ye flesche felynge
The v. owtewarde wyttys to hym be seruynge
Wan yey be not rewlyde ordynatly
The sensualyte yan wt owte lesynge
Ys made ye ymage of synne then of hys foly

the other parte þat ys clepyde reson
Ande þat ys þe ymage of gode sothely
ffor by þat þe sowle of gode hathe congnycyon
And be þat hym serve & honowre duly
Bo þe nether parte of reson he knowyt dyscretly
All erthely thynges how þei schall be usyde
What suffysyth to hys mynystre bodely
Ande what nedyt not to be refusyde
These twoyn be sygnyfye
your dyscernynge & your assay
Blake & whyte sowll & fayer verely
Eny sowll when þou ys no nay
Blake by fedynge of synne þat cummyth all day
Whyche fedynge cummethe of sensualyte
Ande whyte by knowynge of reson verey
Off þe blyssyde mageste deyte
Thus a sowle ys bothe fowlle & fayer
ffowll as a best be fedynge of synne
ffayer as a angell of heven þe ayer
By knowynge of gode by hys reson wt in

Than may I sey thus & begynne
Wt v prudent vyrgyns of my reme
These be þe v wyttes of my sowle wt inne
Nigra sum sed formosa filia Jerusalem

I am mynde yt in ye sowle ys
the veray fygur of ye deyte
Now in my selff I haue mynde & se
the benefytes of gode & his worthynes
Howe holl I was mayde howe fayer howe fre
howe gloryus howe lyke to his lykenes
thys insyght bryngyt to my mynde
what grates I oughte a geyne
yt thus hathe ordeynde wt oute ende
me in hys blys ewr for to reygne
than myne insuffycyens ys to me peyne
that I haue not wer of to yelde my dett
thynkynge my selff creature most veyne
than for sorow my brow I knett
Now in my mynde I brynge to gedyr
ye yerys & dayes of my synfulnes
the instabullnes of my mynde hedyr & thedyr
my y crebles fallynge & feblenes
my y selff knewe nought than I cese
ffor by my selff I may not ryse
Wt oute specyall grace of godes goodnes
thus mynde makyt me me selff to dyspyse
I seke & fynde no [illegible] comforte
But only in gode my creatur
than on to hym I do resorte
and say. haue mynde of me my sauour

Thus mynde to mynde bryngeth þe fauour
Thus by mynde of me gode I haue knowe
Goode mynde of gode þt ys þe syng
Ande thys mynde to haue all cristen men ——— Wyll

And I of þe soule am þe wyll
Off þe godhede lykenes & syng
Wyt goode wyll no man may spyll
For wt owt goode wyll of blys be syng
What soule wyll gret mede wyn
He must gret wyll haue ~~in dede~~ or thought or dede
Worthely sett wt consyens pyn
For in wyll stondyt only mennys dede
Wyll for dede oft ys take
Therfor þe wyll must well be dysposyde
Than þer begynnyt all thyng to wake
Yff wt synne yt be not a nosyde
Therfor þe wyll must be wyll apposyde
Or þt yt to þe mevynge yeve consent
The lybrary of reson must be vnclosyde
Ande all thys dome to take entent
Owr wyll in gode must be only sett
And for gode to do wysly
Wan gode wyll perfytte gode ys in vs knett
Ande he performyt þe dede verely
Off hym cummyth all wyll sett ~~perfytly~~

[illegible]

Nor of oure self we have nought
But sinne wickednesse & folly
Wo is me for myne vnryghtwysnesse
Wherfore I am ashamed & confounded
To lyfte vp myne face vnto the
For my wyckednesse is gone ouer myne head
And as a sore burden is it too heuy for me
My wounds are corrupt & full of corruption
Because of my foolishnesse
I am become so feble & weake
That I can not stande vpryght
I go mourning all the day long
For my loynes are full of fylthynesse
And there is no whole part in my body
I am feble & sore smytten
I grone for very disquietnesse of my heart
Lorde thou knowest all my desyre
And my groanynge is not hyd from the
My heart panteth my strength hath forsaken me
As for the lyght of myne eyes
It is also gone from me

Wondyrfondynes

Lorde rebuke me not in thyne anger
Neyther chasten me in thy displeasure
For thyne arrowes stycke fast in me
And thy hande presseth me sore
There is nothynge sounde in my flesshe
Because of thy displeasure
Neyther is there any rest in my bones
For my synnes are gone ouer myne head
And are lyke a sore burden too heuy for me
My woundes are corrupt & full of corruption
Because of my foolishnesse
I am become so feble & weake
That I can not stande vpryght
I go mourning all the day long
For my loynes are full of fylthynesse
And there is no whole part in my body
I am feble & sore smytten
I grone for very disquietnesse of my heart
Lorde thou knowest all my desyre
And my groanynge is not hyd from the
My heart panteth my strength hath forsaken me
As for the lyght of myne eyes
It is also gone from me
My louers & my neyghbours did stande lokynge vpon my trouble
And my kynsmen stode afarre off
They also that sought after my lyfe layed snares for me
And they that went about to do me euyll
Spake wycked thynges & imagined deceyte all the day long
But I as one that is deafe herde not
And I was as one that is domme
And dyd not open my mouth
Yea I became as one that heareth not
And in whose mouth are no reprofes
For Lorde in the do I hope
Thou wylt answere for me
O Lorde my God
I sayde hearken vnto me lest they reioyce ouer me
And whyle my foote slypped they reioyced
And made great boastynge against me
For I am prepared to punyshment
And my heauynesse is euer before me
For I wyll confesse my wickednesse
And be sory for my synne
But myne enemyes lyue & are mighty
And they that hate me wrongfully are many in number
They also that rewarde euyll for good
Are contrary to me because I follow the thynge that is good
Forsake me not O Lorde my God
Be not thou farre from me
Make haste to helpe me
O Lorde of my saluacion

Thy wysdom counnyde most evenly
And the benygnyte inspyryt all soulles wt lyght
Off all goodnes the ye lovede endeyn
ffor the ye godde of yche goodnes
And yet be the peple yt on yalt pyne
In whom he dwellyt as the temple in
When I thys knowynge make reporte
Ande so ye love he hathe for me wrought
yt byndyt me to love yt pryncs most pry
ffor. for love yt lorde made a man of nought
Thus ye yt love wyche ye clepyde charite
ffor godde ye charite as auctor telle
Ande was ye in charite in godde dwellyt he
Ande godde yt ye charite in hym dwelle
Thus undyrstondynge of godde apostelle
to an to charite than have the ... so
Blessyde ye yt dowelt wt yu ... spelle
Et qui creavit me requievit in tabernaculo meo

wyde

So thre in myght in ow soule be
Mynde wytt & undyrstondynge
By mynde of godde ye fadyr knowynge have ye
By undyrstondynge of godde ye sone ye have knowynge
By wytt wyche tent in love begynnynge
Godde ye holy gost yt clepyde ye love
Not in godd but ow godde in beynge

a b c d e f g h i k l — - 3 2 1 2
+ v x y z

9 14 8 13 / 15 11 1 13 9 ... 23 7 ... 23/14 10 1 12 7 13
4 14 13

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Thus schal clene soule ye symylytude of gode abowe
By mynde forthe in ye fa[der] haue we
Hoppe more lorde then by vndyrstondynge
Ande be wyll in ye holy gost charyte
So these iij pryncypall werkes of yese iij persones
Thus ye clene soule stondyth as a kynge
Ande abowe all yat ye haue fyue wytt
Off yt be may be for all thynges
Ffor yff yt perverte all yis doth opyrtt
ye haue in dangere of hem be way
The wylles ye fleshe & ye fendes
yere fyue wytte from hem ye away
That ye sensualyte yerby benge not rewe by kynde
Ye thynges whiche offende gode in no kynde
Ande yff yer do so yt ye nether pte of resone
In no wyse yer to bende
Than ye ouerpte xall haue the domynacion
When suggestyon to ye mynde doth apere
Vndyrstondynge dowteth not to yem
Consent not wyll yet lessons to lere
Ande than suche stirynge by no synne
Thei be but purges ye soule wher yo suche contraryes
Thus in mens wysdom yowr werkes begynne
Ffereth & ye xall haue ye crown of glory
That euer ys lastynge ioy to be pteneyng yer ynne Ind

Nowe lorde I am beriede [illegible]ge
When I was nought thu madest me thus glorius
When I fyllede theese synnes thu savyde
When I was in grett perell thu kept me xp̄no
When I errede thu reducyde me I trow
When I was ignorant thu taught me thus
When I synnede thu corectede me thus
When I was hevy thu comfortede by myche
When I stonde in grace thu kepyste me thy tyde
When I fall thu reysyst me myghtyly
When I go wyll thu art my gyde
When I cu thu resseyvyste me most benyngly
thu hast a noyntyde wt ye oyle of mercy
thy benefyttes lorde be innumerable
wherfor laude endeles to ye I gyve
Recomendynge me to thy endeles power enable

Here in ye goynge owt ye v wittes synge tota pulcra es et o they [illegible]
be for and next & her folowynge wysdom & after hym mynde [illegible]
& undyrstondynge all iij in worthe cloth of gold & thelowyde & [illegible]
tyde in sute and after ye songe entreth lucyfer in a devyllys [illegible]
ray wt owte & wt in as a prowde galonte seynge thus on this [illegible]
lucyfer

What heyre I here] god hath made a mā
ffor ever I lore]
my pleace to restore]

In the name of god amen I [illegible] of [illegible]

All oþer not thus
Woode & wers wors
I xall tempte hem so sore
For I am he þat syn be gane

I was a angell of lyghte
Lucyfer I hyght
Presumynge in godys syght
Werfor I am lowest in hell

In reformynge of my place ys dyght
Man whom I have most dyspyght
Euer castynge me wyth hem to fyght
In þat hewynly place he xulde not dwell

I am as wyly now as than
þe knowynge þat I had yet I can
I know all compleccyons of a man
Wer to he ys most dysposyde

Ande þer in I tempte ay whan
I marke hys myndys to þer wan
That whoo ys hym þat god hym be gan
Ayens a holy man to me ys he moste ydell

Of godys man ys þe fygure
Hys symylytude hys pyctowre
þe gloryosest of ony creature
þat euer was wrowghte

Wyche I wyll dysvygure
Be my fals conjecture
Yff he tende my reporture
I xall brynge hym to nowghte

In þe soule ben thre partyse iwys
Mynde wyll wndyrstondynge of blys
Fyguryde to þe godhede I know well thys
And þe flesche of man þat ys so changeable

That wyll I tempte as I gees
Thow þat I prewaylle syldom thys is
But yff þe same soule consent to þis
For in þe wyll of þe soule the dedys ben damnable

to ye mynde of ye soule I xall make suggestyun
Ande brynge hys wndyrstondynge to delectacon
So yt hys wyll make cofyrmacon — than am I sekyr newe
That dethe xall sew of damnacon
than of ye soule ye devyll hath dnacon — to all ye devyllys of helle I make a vowe
I wyll go make hys examynacon
Ffor for to tempte man in my lyknes
yt wolde brynge hym to grett feerfullnes
I wyll change me in to bryghtnes — & so hym to begyle
Sen I xall schew hym perfyghtnes
And wertu prove yt wykkydnes — I xall nevr rest tyl ye soule I defyle
thus wndyr colors all thynge perverse

Her Lucyfer devoydyth & cummyth in a geyn as a goodly galont

Mynde
My mynde ys euer on Jhu
That enduyde ws wt wertu
Hys doctrine to sue — euer I purpos

Undyrstondynge
My wndyrstondynge ys in trewe
That wt feyth ws dyd renewe
Hys lawes to pursewe — ys swetter to me than sawowre of ye rose

Wyll
And my wyll hys hys wyll verely
That made ws hys creaturys so specyally
Yeldynge on to hym laude & glory — for hys goodnes

Lucyfer
Ye fonnyde fathers founders of foly
Vt quid hic statis tota die ociosi
Ye wyll perysse or ye yt aspye — The devyll hath a cumbryde yow expres

In the name of [illegible]

Lucyfer

Mynde mynde ser haue in mynde thys

Mynde

He ys not ydyll yt wt gode ys

Lucyfer

Ser I prowe well thys
thys ys my suggestyun
All thyngs hath dew tymes
prayer fastynge labo' all thes — More pleynerly
Whan tyme ys not kept yt dede ys amys — to yowr informacon
Here ys a man yt lyvyt wordly
Hath wyff chyldern & s'vantys besy
And other chargys yt I not specyfye — Ys yt leeffull to yis
to leve hys labo' usyd truly
Hys chargys perysche yt gode gaff duly
And yeve hym to prayer & es of body — Who so do thus wt g[ode]
Martha plesyd gode grettly thore — ys not wyse

Mynde

Ye but Mary plesyd hym moche more

Lucyfer

yet ye lest hade blys for eu' more
ys not yis a now

Mynde

Contemplatyff lyff ys sett befor

Lucyfer

I may not beleve yt in my lore
ffor god hym selff whan he was man borne
what lyff lede he answer yu now
was he eu' in contemplacon

Mynde

I suppose not by my relacon

Lucyfer

And all hys lyff was informacion
Ande example to man
Sumtyme wt synners he had conuersacion
Sumtyme wt holy also communycacion
Sumtyme he laboryde, preyde, sumtyme tribulacion
Thys was vita mixta yt Gode here began
Ande yt lyff xulde ye here sewe — Mynde

Be temp | I kan not be lewe thys ys trewe — Lucyfer

Be contemplatyff lyff for to sewe
Yt ys grett drede & se cause why
They must fast, wake & prey euer new
Vse harde lywynge & goynge wt dyscyplyne dew
Kepe sylence, wepe & surphettys eschewe
Ande yff they fayll of thys they offende Gode hyghly
Wan they haue wastyde by feyntnes
Than febyll ther wyttys & fallyn to fondnes
Sum in to dyspeyer & sum in to madnes
Wet yt well, God ys not plesyde wt thys
Lewe lewe suche syngler besynes
Be in ye worlde vse thyngys nessesarye
The comyn ys best expedyent — Mynde
Who clymyt hye hys fall gret ys — Lucyfer
Truly me semyth ye haue reson — Mynde
Aplye yow then to the conclusyon

x.

I can make no replycacyon
I haue not for gett ther informacon

Lucyfer

Thynke ye ther wppon yt ys yowr saluacon
Now & wndyrstondynge wolde haue delectacon
All syngler devocons he wolde lett
yowr v. wyttys abrode lett sprede
Se how comly to man ys precyosnes
What worschype yt ys to be manfull in dede
Off the symples what profytt yt ys to tak hede
Be holde how ryches dystroyt nede
It makyt man fayer hym wele for to fede
Wndyrstondynge. tend ye to ther informacon

ye werkys in dede

& of lust & lykynge commyth generacon

Wndyrstondynge

In thys I fele in maner of delectacon

Lucyfer

A. ha. ser then ther make a plesacon
Se ye holde ye the worlde a bowte
Lytyll thynge suffysyt to saluacon
All maner synnys dystroyt contrycon
They that dyspeyer mercy haue grett contricon
Gode plesyde best wt goode deuote
therfor I rede yow inclyne
Leue yowr stodyes yat ben dyuyne
yowr prayers yowr penance of ipocryttes the syne
And lede a comun lyff
What synne ys in mete in ale in wyn
What synne ys yt in ryches in clothynge fyne

John

All thynges gode ordeynyde to man to enclyne
Leue your wise questyons & take a wyff
Bett ys fayer frut then fowll pollucon
What sayth sensualite to thys conclusyon — Wyll

As the fyve wyttes gyff informacon
yt semyth youre resons be goode — Lucyfer

The wyll of the soule hathe fre dominacon
Dyspute not to moche in thys wt reson
yet the nether parte to thys takyth sum instruccon
And so shuld the ouer parte but he were woode — Wyll

Me semyth as ye sey in body & soule
Man may be in the worlde & be ryght goode — Lucyfer

Ser by seint powle
But trust not thes prechers for they be not goode
Ffor they flatter & lye as they were woode
Ther ys a wolffe in a lombys skyn — Wyll

Ya I woll no mor row a geyn the floode
I woll sett my soule a mery pynne — Lucyfer

Be my trowthe than do ye wysely
Gode lovyt a clene soule & a mery
Acorde yow in to gedyr by — Mynde

To thys suggestyon agre we — Undyrstondynge

8

[illegible]

Dowett yer in I haue tyly — Wyll

And I consent yerto fyrlye — Lucyfer

A, ser, all mery than a wey care,
Go in the worlde, se that abowte,
Gett goode frely, cast no dowte,
To the ryche ye se men lowly lowte;
Yeue to yowr body that ys nede,
And euer be mery, let reuell rowte. — Mynde

Ya, ellys I be schrewe my snowte. — Wndurstondynge

And yff I care, cache I the gowte. — Wyll

And yff I spare, the Dewyll me spede. — Lucyfer

Go yowr wey than, and do wysly,
Chaunge that syde aray. — Mynde

I yt defye. — Wndurstondynge

We wyll be fresche, hanip la plu joly,
Ffarwell penance. — Mynde

To worschyppys I wyll my mynde aplye. — Wndyrstondynge

My wndyrstondynge in worschyppe and glory. — Wyll

And I in lust of lechery,
As was sumtyme gyse of Ffraunce,
Wt wy wyppe, Fforwell quod I the Dewyll ys wppe. — Lucyfer

Off my dysyres now haue I summe
wer onys brought in to custume
then farwell consyens he wer clumme
I xulde haue all my wyll
Resons I haue made bothe deffe & dumme
Grace ys owt & put a rome
wethyr I wyll haue he xall cum
so at ye last I xall hym spyll
I xall now stere hys mynde
to yt synne made me a fende
pryde wyche ys a-geyn kynde
and of synnys hede
so to couetyse he xall wende
ffor yt enduryth to ye last ende
and on to lechery and I may hym sende
than am I seker ye soule ys dede
That soule god made incomparable
to hys lyknes most amyable
I xall make yt most reprouable
Evyn lyke to a fende of hell.
at hys deth I xall apere informable
schewynge hym all hys synnys abhomynable
prevynge hys soule dampnable
so wt dyspeyer I xall hym qwell
whyll clennes ys in man
verely ye soule god ys wt in
and when yt ys in dedly synne

Ande thou ben my synguler solace
Kynde fortune & grace
Kynde nobyll of kynrede me þou hase
Ande yt makyt me so boyn
ffortune in worldly worschyppe me doth lace
Grace yt wyt curyd eloquence & yt mase
that all our cunnynge I dysdeyn

And my joy yt especyall — vndyrston
to guyde wysse ryches for her to fall
to se yt to handyll yt to tell yt all
And strengthe to spare
to be bolde ryche & ryall
I bost I a vowe wer I xall
Ryches makyt a man equall
to hem sumtyme to ther souereyns wer

to me ye joy most delectable — wyll
ffresche delytynges to sum amyables
Spekynge wordes delectable
preuynges oun to loue
yt ye joy of joye inestymable
to halse to kysse ye affyables
a louer ys sow prouyable
Ase ye smylynges on me wt yt doth renewe

to auaunte thus me sounyth no schame — mynde
ffor galentes now be in most fame
Curtesly prouyse me hem pe tame

— wndyrstondyng

the ryche covetyse we dar blame
Off poverte & symony thowe he bere ye name
to be fals me report yt same
yt ys clothyde wysdom wey yt I wryte — wyth

Ande of techery to make a covenante
Now here ye no mor yan dyrnke atteynt
thes thyngs be now so conversant
we seme yt no schame — mynde
Ouryone a pay I wyth on hande — vndyrstond
Ande I falsnes to be passante — wyth
Ande I in lust my flesche to daunte
No man dyspyse thes yey be but game — mynde
I yowe of thes now bot we synge — vndyrstond
Ande yff I spar swelt joy me wynnes — wyth
gane at ys I to have I sprynge
Lust makyth me wondyr wyrke — mynde
A towne to yow bothe I brynge — vndyrstond
And I a mone for ony kynge — wyth
And but a tybull I owt wynge
the devell hym spede yt mysbeleve ayr lod | bt coment | — mynde
yow be yis tyme ye news — vndyrstond
Styr best to god a vowe — wyth
So mery as ye byrde on bow
I take no thought — mynde

The welfar of thys worlde ys in vs I make avowe — Wndyrstond

Lett . eche man tell hys condycons howe — Wyll

Be tyme ys ande haue at yow
ffor I am a schawnde of wekt nought — Mynde

Thys ys a cause of my worschyppe
I serue myghty lordeschyppe
Ande am in grett lordeschyppe
Therfor moche folke me dredeth
Men sew to my frendeschyppe
ffor meyntnance of her schendeschyppe
I support hem by lordeschyppe
ffor to get goode thys a grett spede ys — Wyll

A what ioye ys ther be me
More than I take spendys I thryse iij
Sumtyme I yeff sumtyme they me
Ande am on them sekyr & gay
ffrom place now ther be
But oute tymes we yett there see
It ys nothynge but a vanyte
Lust ys now comun as the way — Wndyrstondynge

And I vse perjury
Enbrace quest of jurry — & take large yefftes
Schoppe & chonge with symonye
By the cause neuer so try
I preue yt fals I swere I lye
With a quest of myn affye
The redy wey thys now to thryfte ys — Mynde

Ande þe deuele hade sworn þat þei wolde ber vp falsnes
Ande mayntene it at þe best þis is þe deuelis dame
Ande here menstrallis be conuenyent
ffor trumpis schulde blow to þe iugementes
Off batell also þeir instrumentes
þeryngs comfort to fyght
Therfor þei be expedyentes
to þes meny of mayntenans
As men tell see madam regent
Ande damnes þe lady your herte be lyght
to þat other partys. thes meny wyll spende — vndyrst
þat wos þo thyng schall hem offende — wyth
wos wyll not to hem condescende
he schall haue thereof — myndes
ther spyte þat law wolde amende — vndyrst
þat mayntenaunce no man dar reprehende — wyth
thes meny thus drawne comprehende
pryde. Invy. & wrathe in here hert — vndyrst
now wyll I chaunge begyn my talees
Iorours in our heede ther to face
ffayer speche & falsehede in our place þe
the quest of holborn can in to þis place
A geyne þe ryght our þei purchase
Off whom þei holde not here grace þo
Many a tyme haue dampned truthe

Here entreth vj jorours in a sute gownyde wt hodys abowt her nekys hattys of meyntenance þervpon vyseryde dyuersly here mynstrell a ba

Let se fyrst wronge & sleyght — Wnd. Mynde / [illegible]
Dobullnes & falsnes schewe yowr myght
Now raveyn & dyscheyt
Now holde yow here togydyr
Thys menye cosyne yowe so streytt
That þer reporte as mede yeuyt beyght
Hey þe þe quest of holborn an euyll entyrecte
They dawnce all þe londe hydyr & thedyr
& I Perjury yowr fownder
Now dance on ws all þe worlde doth on ws wondyr
Lo here ys a menye loue well fare

þe þer spondes þt þu me spare — Mynde
Haue þer a bylle haue þr no care — Wyll
Who hath wronge or ryght
They fere not to swere & stare — Mynde
Thowgh all be falls lese & mare — Wyll
Wyche wey to þe woode wyll þe hare — Wndyrst
They knowe & þer at rest sett als tyghte
Some seme hem wyse
For þe fadyr of vs covetyse
Now meyntnance & perjury — Wyll
Hathe schewyde þe trace of þer cumpeny / þt to me attende
Ye xall se a sprynge of lechery
[illegible]

Here formes ye of ye stewys clene rebaldry
they wyll sey for sothe wen yt yer lye
Off ye comyn yey synge eche wyke by & by
they may sey wt tonge I trow that amende

Here entreth vj women in sut dysgysyde as galauntes & iij as matrones wt wonderfull visurs congruent here mynstrell a hornpype

wyll | [illegible]

Cum slepers rechelesnes & ydelnes
All in all surfet & gredynes
ffor ye flesche spouse ~~& mast~~ breche & mastres
wt ientyll fornycacon
yowr mynstrell a hornpype mete
yt fowll ys in hymselff but to ye erys swete
thre fortherers of loue hem schrew I be hete
thys dance of yis damosellys ys thewys yis regyn

ye may not endur wt owt my meyntenance — Mynde

that ys bought wt a brybe of owr sofferance — Wnd

whom bryngest yu vs of yin aqueyntance — wyll
I sett ye at nought

On yt worde I wyll take vengeaunce — Mynde
wer vyce be ~~gat~~ gederyde ew ys sw myschaunce
hurle hens thes harlottes here gyse ys of fraunce
yey xall a bey bytterly by hym yt all wrought — Wnd

Ill spede ye and yu spare
yi longe body bare
to bett I not spare
have the agayn — wyll

Holde me not let me go todye
Dynge I dasche ther go thare
Dompe devyle can ye not say — I tell yow owt wordys on a wyse
Exiens — myende

Now I beschrew yow thus dalyaunce — wndyrst

ye & evyll be ther thryvande — wylle

no more let us be stryvande
Nowe all at on — myende

Hey we do a mony on thryvande — wndyrst

to ye devell be ther dryvande — wylle

he yt ye yll wy.wande
Wo the hym by ye bon — myende

ent Come then ye dalyaunce
Ande let us a ordynaunce
Off bothe thes chevesaunces — How we may thryve — wndyrst

At westmynster wt owte varyaunce
ye nex terme schall my [illegible] for a varyaunce
For questorms for enbraceo for recordaunce
Lyttlyer to get goode hath no man on lyue — myende

Ande at ye parvyse I wyll be
A powlys be twyn ij ande iij
wt a menye folowynge me
Entret. juge p'tynge & to supryse — wylle

~~ye fortyme I take a mende~~
Ande on ye lattor ye lede me
Woen I com hat to ye cyte
I wake all lame & wey to my affynyte
& I spede not ther to ye stewe I schoft — myende

Thomas

Ther goth the monthes but slendyr — wytt

This sumtyme I take a mone
Off hem that nought offendyr
I onrose vpe her pyne — mynde

Omnipotens

And I a rest ther no drede ye
Y leve forfett ther no mede ye
Ande take to me that nede ye
I sere not there ther enmye — wondyrst

Then ther enmye other the were I fare
Theye say I ondyrstt them I herde of nons ay
To more I wyll a grote the iff nede were
Theye bede I my lyff — wytt

Ye but of we m I have left care
Met & drynke & ease I aske no mare
Ande a praty wenche to se her bare
I rese but lytyll be sche mayde or wyffe — mynde

Thys ow a soper
I wyll be soon rycher
Bot a noble wt goode chere
— redyly to spende — wondyrstod

And I twayn be the fere
To meyne at a goode dyner
I hope of a goode yer
— for ow I trust gode wyll send — wytt

A best we have wyne
Ande a cosyn of myn
Wt me for to dyne
— my nobles wyll I spende frely — mynde

Evank ferming

[illegible] cleane [illegible]

we xall a corde well & fyne —— wondyrst

nay I wyll not passe schylyngs nyne ye —— wyth

no yu was new but a scoryn
I wolle be holdyn ryth by sent Audre of Ely
ande now in my mynde I haue
by ye cosyn yonet .ii. so gode me saue / & now haue be mery
beche mornyth wt a chorle a very knaue
I prey me yer now I lyst raue
& haue ye chorle wyth hem dysspleaue / I wolde onys haue hy
how myght make hym there to raue + in ye wery —— mynde

ffor there I haue a remedye
I xall yenke hym there so dysspytuysly / & quak for very fere
yt of his lyff he xall wery
ande yff he wyll not leue yer by
Ow his bodys he xall a bye / nay suche chorlys I haue lor
tyll he leue yt ielousy —— wndyrstondyng

nay I haue bolle hym awytte
a prest hym fyrst to see for fyght
& haue in a nother schep hym ondyght
he ne xall wete by wom ne ~~wone~~ howe
haue hym in ye marschalsi seyn a nyght
& haue to ye amyalte for yey wyll byght
a prinomi facias than haue no tryght
ande yu xalt hyle hym so yt he xall haue I now —— wyth

wat & yee ne ioyns be of o rede —— wondyrst

[illegible]

Ande thow were we so we ere
Yo undyrstondynge wolde do ye sey

I sey man holde forthe ye wey — Undyrstonde
Thys lyff we lede ys sother y nowe
I wyll no undyrstondynge xall lett my pley
Wyll frende how seyst thowe

I wyll not thynke yeron to gode a vowe — Wyll
We be yit but tendyr of age
Schulde we leve thys lyue ya whowe
We may amende when we be sage

Thus many on unabylyth hym to grace — Wysdom
They wyll not loke but slumber & wynke
They take not drede before thy face
Howe horryble ther synnys stynke
When they be on the pytte brynke
Than xall they trymbull & quake for drede
Yit mynde I sey yow be thynke
In what peryll ye be now take hede
Se howe ye haue dysvyguryde yowr soule
Be holde yowr selff loke veryly in mynde

Here Anima apperythe in ye most horrybull wyse fowler than a fende

Out I tremble for drede by Seynt Paule — Mynde
Thys ys fowler than ony fende

Why art thou creature so onkynde — Wysdom
Thus to defoule Goddys own place
That was made so gloryus wt owt ende
Thu hast made ye devllys recettacle

As many dedly synnys as ye have usyde
So many devullys in your soule be
Beholde what ys therin reclusyde
Alas man of thi soule have pyte

Here rennyt owt from under the horrybull mantyll of the Soull vi small boyes in the lyknes of devullys & so retorne ageyn

Wysdam

What have I do why lowyste thou not me
Why cherysyste thi enmye why hatyst thou thi frende
Myght I have don ony mor for the
But love may brynge the to mynde
Thou hast made the a bronde of hell
Whom I made the ymage of lyght
Yff the devull myght he wolde the qwell
But that mercy expellyt hys myght
Why doyst thou soule me all dyspyght
Why yevyst thou myn enmy that I have bought
Why werkyst thou hys consell by myn dethe bought
Why hast hatyst thou vertu why lovyst that ys nought

Mynde

A lorde now I brynge to mynde
My horryble synnys & myn offens
I se how I have defowlyde the noble kynde
That was lyke to the by intellygens
Wndyrstondynge I sende to thi presens
Ower lyff wyche that ys most synfull
Sek yow remedye do your dylygens
To clense the soule wyche ys so synfull

Wndyrstondyng

Johan

Be yow mynde I haue very knowynge
That gretly gode we haue offendyde
Endelees peyne worthy be owr desyrynge
Whyche be owr selff neu may be amendyde
wt owt gode in whom all ys comprehendyde
therfor to hym let vs resort
he lefte vp them yt be descendyde
he ys resurreccon & lyve to he wyll resort

wyll

My wyll was full yowe to synne
By whyche ye soule ys so abhomynable
I wyll retorne to gode & new begynne
Ande in hym gronde my wyll stable
yt of hys mercy he wyll me able
to haue ye yiftys of hys specyall grace
how hys sowll may be recurable
at ye jugment before hys face

And

thaw wt yow in ye soule dothe eys
mercy gode wch chaunge I nowis
& yt thus horryble in synne hys
Sythe mynde wyll & vndyrstondynge be brought
to haue knowynge they ill wrought
What ys yt yt xall make me clene
put yt lorde in to my thowte
thi olde mercy let me remene

Wysdom

Thow ye soule mynde take
Ande vndyrstondynge of hys synnys all wey
Beynge in wyll yt forsake

As meke was as this is contenyng
To euery on that a sorow remedy
That disheryth synnes that resseyt remaine
* the ii^de gode dede suffir p[ro]digiously for my love
Off the werkyng a worde of grace rehersed
And that to me more doth me meve
Than thi disportyng of the body wt prime greves
Wt as many rodes as myght grevs and p[er]ssed
In the place of dayo rernyng
To who sufferyth most for god the most love
Slaunder rehersed only adu[er]sytes
* the iii^de gode dede wake on nyght for the love of me
And that to me the most plesaunce
Than yff thu sent thy blessyd free
to my sepulture wt grete pursuaunce
ffor my dethe to take vengeaunce
To wakyng the a holy thyng
Ther that the hadd wt goode resance
Many grace of that doth spryng
* the v^te gode dede have pyte & co[m]passion
Off thi neyboure w[hi]ch the sore & nedy
And that to me the most delectacion
Than thu fastyd xlti yer by & by
thys dayo in the worde as steyfly
As thu comest in wat[er] & blode
To pyte god p[ro]fesyth gretly
And that the a vertu sowen as cleryo rede
* the vi^te gode dede in the worse
Rested thy flocke for my pardone

John Forman James M

lett not thy tonge thy evyn crysten dyspyse
ande than plesyst most myn excellence
than yff thu labouryd with grett dylygence
vp on thy nakyd feet & bare
tyll the blode folowde for peyn & vyolence
ande aftyr eche stepe the sene were
the vii^te cryst seth in this manere
thy neybur to evyll no stere not thu
but all thynges tourne in to better chere
as than most plesyst me here
then yf a thowsande tymys thu yede thedere
a busche of thornys that scharpe was
tyll thi nakyd body was all [illegible]
ande evyn went to the bonys bare
the viii^te gode sethe thu me tyll
oftyn pray & aske of me
ande that plesythe me most on to my wyll
than yf my modyr & all sentes preyde for the
the ix^te gode sethe love me soverenly
ande that to me most plesant ys
than yf thu went vp on a pyler of the
that were sett full of scharpe pykys
so that thu cut thi flesche in to the smale peces
lo gode ys plesyde most with the dedys of charyte
than all the peynys that man may suffer here
wondyr thees peynes man in this [illegible]

Thes outpeths [illegible] with the [illegible] wyttes goynges be for [illegible]
the onsyde & [illegible] on the other syde & wyll folowe
all in hast [illegible] chapellys & crosses and all [illegible]

ad quemvis singulos in hoc conuique [illegible] potens dno p[ro] ro[illegible]
que potens in [illegible] salutatio accipiat & nomen dni jn[illegible]

O mercy Jhesu to the I crye
O swete Jhesu my delectacion
O Jhesu the sone of virgyne marye
ffull of mercy & compassion
My soule ys wasschede be thy passion
ffro the synne orygynall by sensualyte
And be this I have a newe resurreccion
The lyght of grace I fele in me
In be twoyn myghtes of my soule I the offendyde
The on by my inwardes wyth thew ben costly
The other by my outwardes wyth corporall dedes
The be the v. wyttes bodyly
Wyth the wyche twoyn myghtes mercy I crye
My moder holy chyrche hath gyven me grace
Whom the fyrst toke to your mercy
Yet of my selff I may not satysfye my trespas
Magna est misericordia tua
Wyth full feyth of forgyvenes to the lorde I come

Vulnerasti cor meum soror mea sponsa — Wysdom
In uno ictu oculorum tuorum
Ye have wondyde my hert syster spouse dere
In the twoyn syghtes of your ey
By the recognycion ye have clere
And be the hye love ye have godly
It persschyt my hert to hoo (?) [illegible]
Now ye have for sake synne & be contryte

R.c.

[illegible]
[illegible]

ye were so dere to me verely
Now be ye reformyde to your soule bewte
Ande ther your v wyttes offendyde has
Ande to make a sythe by impotent
My v wyttes yt neuer dyde trespas
Hathe made a sythe to ye father suffycyent
Wt my syght I se ye people vyolent
I herde hem vengeaunce on to me calle
I felte ye stenche of caryn here present
I tastyde ye drynke mengylde wt gall
By towchynge I felte peyns smerte
My handes sprede a brode to halse ye swete
My fete naylyde to abyde wt ye swete herte
My hert clovyn for yi loue most dere
Myn hede bowhede down to kys ye here
My body full of holys as a dove howse
In thys ye be reformyde soule my plesure
Ande now ye be ye very temple of Jhesus
Fyrst ye were reformyde by baptyme of ygnorance
And clensyde from ye synnys orygynall
Ande now ye be reformyde by ye sakyrment of penance
Ande clensyde from ye synnys actuall
Now ye be fayrest Crystes own specyall
Dysfygure yow neuer to ye lyknes of ye fende
Now ye haue receyuyde ye crownys victoryall
To regne in blys wtowtyn ende Mynde
Haue mynde soule wat gode hath do

Reformyde yow in feyth veryly
Nolite conformari huic seculo
Sed reformamini in nouitate spiritu sensus vestri
Conforme yow not to thys pepullys glory
But reforme in gostly felynge
Ye that wer dampnyde by synne endelesly
Mercy hathe reformyde yow ande crownyde as a kynge
Take vndyrstondynge soule now ye — Wndyrstondynge
Wyth contynuall hope in goddys behest
Renouamini spiritu mentis vestre
Et induite nouum hominem qui secundum deum creatus est
Ye be reformyde in felynge not only as a best
But also in the ouer parte of yowr reson
Be wyche ye haue lyknes of gode mest
Ande of that mercyfull very congnycion — Wyll
Now ye soule yn charyte reformyde ys
Wyche charyte ys gode verely
Exspoliantes vos veterem hominem cum actibus suis
Spoyll yow of yowr olde synnys & foly
Ande be renuyde in godys knowynge ageyn
That enduyde wyth grace so specyally
Conseruynge in peyn ande in blys for to reyn — Anima
Then wyth yow thys I may sey thus
Of owr lorde soueren person Jhesus
Suauis dominus vniuersis Et miseraciones eius super omnia opera eius

O thu hye souereyn wysdam my ioy xpe
heuyn erthe & helle ordeynar
yelde yow reuerence for grace pleyntuus
ye yeff to man euer to indure
now wt seint powle we may sey thus
yt be reformyde thorow feythe in Ihesum
we haue pees & a corde be twyx gode & ws
Iustificati ex fide pacem habemus ad deum
Now to Salamonys conclusyon I com
Timor domini inicium sapiencie

Vobis qui timetis deum
Orietur sol iusticie
the tru son of rightusnes
Wyche yt ys owr lorde Ihesu
xall shyne in hem yt drede his meknes
Nowe ye must euery soule renewe
In grace & vycys to eschew
Ande so to ende wt perfeccon
That ye doctryne of wysdom we may sewe
Sapiencia patris graunt yt for his passion A m e n

Wysdom
And v wyttes
Mynde
Vnderstondynge
Lucyfer

O liber si quis cui constat forte queratur
Hyngham quod monachus dicetur super omnia

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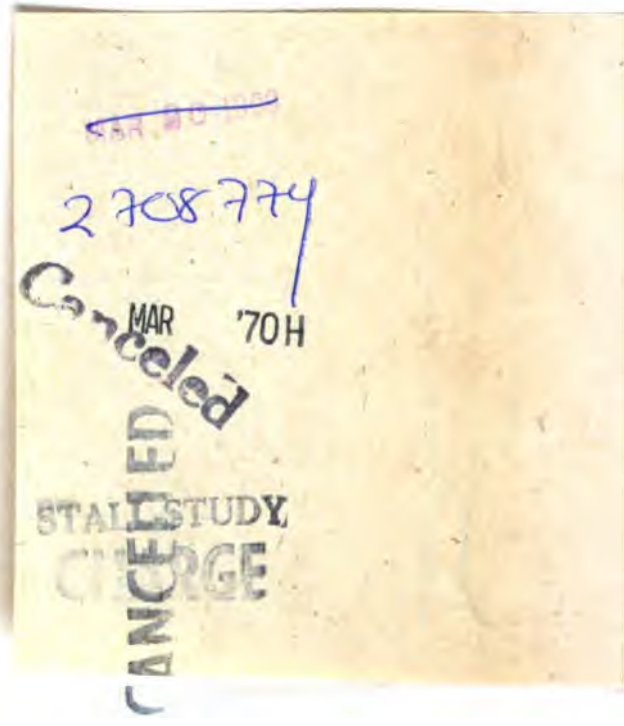
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